

19970822.qrp v00_n826.qrs.970822

>From ???@??? Sat Aug 23 01:33:14 1997
Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 19:03:31 EDT
Subject: QRP-L digest 826
Message-Id: <97Aug22.190430edt.35052-4484+194@fidoii.cc.Lehigh.EDU>

QRP-L Digest 826

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) [25305] "COM" Rating system proposal (long)
by Bill Jones <kd7s@psnw.com>
- 2) [25306] Responses on Charge Controller Question
by NilsBull@aol.com
- 3) [25307] Cascade/Cascade Plans wnted/New Wire Ant
by Earl Andrews <earlve3ab@host.igs.net>
- 4) [25308] FYBO
by "Owen 'OJ' Quarles" <k1oj@swbell.net>
- 5) [25309] Re: "COM" Rating system proposal (long)
by Roger Hightower <n7kt@dancris.com>
- 6) [25310] Request for information (not QRP)
by bruce muscolino <w6toy@pop.erols.com>
- 7) [25311] Curry Communications
by bruce muscolino <w6toy@pop.erols.com>
- 8) [25312] Curry comm.
by Bigbob97@aol.com
- 9) [25313] Re: FYBO Certificates
by Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
- 10) [25314]
by w8irq@juno.com
- 11) [25315] Altoids Style Coca Cola Big Tin
by wpc@west.net (John Roblin)
- 12) [25316] 38S Low Power
by Norm Melick <henmel@worldnet.att.net>
- 13) [25317] Re: "Altoids" box rigs??
by Joseph Everhart <n2cx@voicenet.com>
- 14) [25318] CQC Contest K0FRP
by AlK0FRP@aol.com
- 15) [25319] Web Site additions
by "Frank, G3YCC." <g3ycc@gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>
- 16) [25320] QRZ Electronics
by Derek Brown <DBrown@RFMD.COM>
- 17) [25321] Link-coupled ATUs
by "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
- 18) [25322] Re: Link-coupled ATUs
by K5BDZ@aol.com
- 19) [25323] HW-8, in need of main tuning capacitor

by wa5whn@juno.com

20) [25324] MFJ-9040
by Jim <kw3u@warwick.net>

21) [25325] Source for Kent Paddles?
by Bob Schreibmaier <k3ph@dxis.monroe.pa.us>

22) [25326] folded dipole shorting bars
by Paul Cereste <cereste@myapc.com>

23) [25327] Re: Source for Kent Paddles?
by "Watson R Gabriel Jr" <wgabriel@duke-energy.com>

24) [25328] Source for Kent Paddles? -Reply
by Paul Cereste <cereste@myapc.com>

25) [25329] Help -Toroids with shorted turns
by "Bob Kellogg" <ae4ic@nr.infi.net>

26) [25330] Re: FYBO Certificates
by Jack Dougherty /RE&C Houston <jdougher@wt.net>

27) [25331] RE: folded dipole shorting bars
by "James C. Owen, III" <owen@piper.eeel.nist.gov>

28) [25332] FS: QRP++ and stuff
by "Dave Redfearn" <n4elm@ipass.net>

29) [25333] Re: HW-8, in need of main tuning capacitor
by Ed Loranger <we6w@qsl.net>

30) [25334] Re: Curry comm.
by Steven Weber <kd1jv@moose.ncia.net>

31) [25335] CQC QSO Party
by AE0Q V31RY <v31ry@ix.netcom.com>

32) [25336] Big Altoids tins
by "Rich Dailey, KA8OKH" <ka8okh@som-uky.campus.mci.net>

33) [25337] Re: HW-8, in need of main tuning capacitor
by Zack Lau <zlau@arrl.org>

34) [25338] Ham Keyer and Trac Keyer
by Jerrydeen@aol.com

35) [25339] Initial link tuner response. . .
by "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

36) [25340] Wanted EK-38, or EK-39 keyer
by wb8ygg@juno.com (Bradley S. Mitchell)

37) [25341] Ten-Tec 525
by Jerrydeen@aol.com

38) [25342] R. A. Kent keys
by ken crips <kk7cm@rocketmail.com>

39) [25343] Re: Help -Toroids with shorted turns
by Ed Pacyna <pacyna@auratek.com>

40) [25344] Help ID small capacitor
by Bill Howell <bhowell@mail.utexas.edu>

41) [25345] "Potential" Super SST
by Chris Cartwright <ccart@dns.vidtel.com>

42) [25346] Re: "Potential" Super SST
by "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>

43) [25347] Inflated Accessory Prices?

by DYARNES@aol.com

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 16:14:14 -0700
From: Bill Jones <kd7s@psnw.com>
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25305] "COM" Rating system proposal (long)
Message-ID: <33FCCBC6.6C07@psnw.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Friends,

Because many of us buy and sell used QRP gear on this list, I would like to propose a voluntary rating system similar in structure to an RST report. In this case it would be a COM system. COM would stand for (C) Cosmetic, (O) Operation and (M) modifications.

An example of how the COM system could be used follows. Suppose I wanted to part with my faithful Heathkit HW-8 (which I don't, by the way). The rig is in excellent condition and is 100% operational but does have a couple modifications. If I were listing this rig for sale, I would rate it as follows:

C=4

O=4

M=3 (RCA antenna replaced with SO-239 and Heath audio amplifier board replaced with LM386)

I would like to solicit input from list-members, especially those who have bought or sold equipment via QRP-L. Is this a workable idea? What suggestions would you make to change the rating system?

Rating System Description

Cosmetic

- 1 Basket case - useable for parts only
- 2 Rough - may have scratches, dents, missing knobs etc.
- 3 Normal usage - some scratches
- 4 Exceptionally clean - few if any blemishes
- 5 Absolutely like new - factory fresh

Operation

- 1 Basket case - useable for parts only

- 2 Partially functional but needs service
- 3 Fully functional but may need minor alignment or repair
- 4 Fully functional in all respects
- 5 Absolutely like new - factory fresh

Modifications (describe)

- 1 Butchered
- 2 Numerous modifications - not all well done
- 3 Several modifications - most or all well done
- 4 Slight modification to enhance appearance or operation
- 5 No (known) modifications

--

Bill Jones - KD7S <><
Sanger, California
kd7s@psnw.com

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 19:23:56 -0400 (EDT)
From: NilsBull@aol.com
To: QRP-L@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25306] Responses on Charge Controller Question
Message-ID: <970821192353_-2105730627@emout15.mail.aol.com>

Gang,

Youze guys are a hoot. I got a lot of responses that were in the same style as my question. Things like "yep" and a couple "yes, yes, yes, yes, hell yes" and such.

Anyway, it appears before me now that the miniature tiny little board of controller stuff that I got from Mike Bryce (the \$25 one) will work. I intend to check this out with a fuse &c to keep from burning things up outright right away sorta.

Now if I could only find my slobbering iron &c. . . .

73 & tnx for the info, amigos

Nils
WB8IJN &c

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 20:03:59 -0400 (EDT)
From: Earl Andrews <earlve3ab@host.igs.net>
To: Qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25307] Cascade/Cascade Plans wnted/New Wire Ant
Message-ID: <199708220003.UAA29963@host.ott.igs.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I talked to a chap who was running a QRP SSB Kit he had built called the Cascade..It was on 75 m ssb and his audio sounded real good and his sig was good strength as well. I understand it is a 2 band unit 75 and 20 mtrs. Im interested in getting a schematic diagram and possibly a few other bits of information to build one myself. I may even have most of the parts in my junkbox right now particularly if it is a 9 mhz IF. and a 5 to 5.5 mhz vfo as I expect it might well be. Using this IF and vfo combo it works well for the two bands in question. If someone could make a copy and send it to me..id be more than happy to reimberse you the cost of photocpy and mailing. I under-stand the kit is now out of production. If someone has a kit that they would be interested in selling...I might also be interested in acquiring even if it doesnt work and you have given up on it or whatever.
,...ON ANOTHER TOPIC..ANTENNAS...I have up a "Travelling Wave style Wire antenna" which seems to be showing alot of promise. Right now it is only up 37 ft at its highest point and the other end is at about 30 ft. The flat top portion is about 120 ft long. The SWR IS VERY LOW and the tuner is not required for 160, 80,40 or 20 meters. A typical SWR is 1.3 "ish" over this very broad wide freq range and ive done some testing on 75 m and it compares favorably to a fellow who was in the same geographic location as I was and we were getting signal reports on 75m. He was generally stronger but he had a dipole and it was by a large body of water and his antennas were perhaps up a bit higher. THis antenna was described in QST some months. It is fed at one end through a homebuilt balun transformer(trifilar wound). I dug out a 2 inch ferrite core (amidon type) (ui= 40 i think) and the other core I used for

the opposite
end was a 1.25 in. dia core with a ui of 125. I tested it out with an auttek rf1 analyser and some resistive loads b4 putting in in service and the SWR was very low
from about 1.7 mhz to about 14 mhz ..then the SWR/impedance started to vary. The antenna is still useable by the looks of it above 15 mhz with a tuner but I suspect as the article said..It would show directivity towards the terminated end. My antenna is
fed near the shack end and im not going to have the reversible feed point just yet
anyways..Im going to keep experimenting with it and hope to use it alot this fall when
i might have more time for operating.
Lately, Ive been very busy doing home renovations while the WX co-operates but fall
and winter I should be quite active agn on HF. I recently tried 2 m SSB with a new
to me rig..a yaesu ft221..analog dial and about 14 watts PEP. Had a few qsos with it
on ssb and find it is indeed weak signal work and much effort is required to copy
and be heard at times but that is the challenge. Hope to start collecting some grid
squares this fall
73 es 72 earl ve3ab

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 19:04:00 -0500
From: "Owen 'OJ' Quarles" <k1oj@swbell.net>
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25308] FYBO
Message-ID: <33FCD770.C84@swbell.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Howdy!
Maybe I missed something. Did I see some chatter about 'FYBO
Certificates' being available? What's the scoop? How much are they and
where are they? Freezing minds want to know!
CU---OJ---K10J
..

OWEN'OJ'QUARLES k1oj@swbell.net
HOUSTON, TEXAS QRP-L #732
ARCI #9492 ARKQRP # CQC #476
CW OR CB, ITS YOUR CHOICE!

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 17:06:08 -0700
From: Roger Hightower <n7kt@dancris.com>
To: kd7s@psnw.com
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25309] Re: "COM" Rating system proposal (long)
Message-ID: <33FCD7F0.11D0@dancris.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

This system looks pretty good, except for the Modifications part.
There's something missing, like "Numerous, all well done", and I can't
see anyone admitting to "Butchered", :-).

I still like it...think I'll save it and see how it works out.

--

72/73 de Roger N7KT n7kt@dancris.com Mesa, AZ Grid DM43cj
NorCal 1099 CoQRP 176 QRP-L 62 G-QRP 9081 ARCI 8946 NE-QRP 383
AK-QRP 167

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 20:37:40 -0400 (EDT)
From: bruce muscolino <w6toy@pop.erols.com>
To: QRP-L@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25310] Request for information (not QRP)
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19970821202514.2bb70692@pop.erols.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Gang,

My boss asked me for some help with a project...

It seems he has a spare color monitor left from a computer upgrade that he
wants to hook up to an Atari game system so his granskids will stay out of
grampa's computer and TV. He says there are boards/boxed avbailable that

will convert the NTSC output from the Atari to RGB for the monitor. He asked if I'd heard of any. I had to say no -- I'm a radio guy! Do any of you have any information on these things and maybe some leads on where they can be had and how much they're worth?

Thanks in advance, and 73.

Mandatory QRP content -- QRP operation is ONLY as successful as you believe it will be!

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 20:37:25 -0400 (EDT)
From: bruce muscolino <w6toy@pop.erols.com>
To: QRP-L@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25311] Curry Communications
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19970821202500.2bef7f1a@pop.erols.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Can you gentlemen takes this thread off this list while you are still gentlemen? The fact is there was probably wrong done on both sides. There IS a Federal law requiring mail order companies to ship within 30 days of receipt of an order or notify the customer of the erasons for the delay and the expected ship date.

73 -- and don't write me!

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 21:16:51 -0400 (EDT)
From: Bigbob97@aol.com
To: QRP-L@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25312] Curry comm.
Message-ID: <970821211538_1021416610@emout05.mail.aol.com>

I for one would like to know - is Curry Comm. a real business or a sham? (or maybe just a slow business without a phone) - can't discount all this free publicity! If they turn out to be Ok - I for one will remember their name!
Bob WB2DHK

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 18:27:57 -0700 (MST)
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
To: k10j@swbell.net
Cc: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25313] Re: FYBO Certificates
Message-ID: <199708220127.SAA11618@usr10.primenet.com>

Howdy Folks,

OJ (K10J) wrote:

>

> Howdy!

Hey, I like this guy.... :-)

> Maybe I missed something. Did I see some chatter about 'FYBO
> Certificates' being available? What's the scoop? How much are they and
> where are they? Freezing minds want to know!

Oh I just know I'm gonna regret this.... ;-)

Yes, there are FYBO certificates. Of the original pile of
SASE's I've got about 8 orders left to fill. Shameful that
it's taken this long, but my color printer was hosed, work
flared up for months, I have bunions, the ozone hole ate my
Underoos.... It was awful.

If you sent in a FYBO log, you can get a FYBO certificate.
All you need to do is send me a big 8.5"x11" SASE. And if your
pocketbook allows, \$1 toward printing costs would be *greatly*
appreciated. (Man, these color inkjets printers use expensive
ink!)

So what do they look like? Well I'm biased :-) so if one
of you on the List already has one, perhaps you could let
folks know what you think? You won't hurt my feelings, really!
I've never received a contest certificate ('cept for Chuck's
Fox Hunt thingy - thanks Chuck! My buck's on the way!), so
I have no idea of what nice and what ends up on the bottom
of the litterbox.

Cheers de AB7TT,

-Joe, vole@primenet.com, AZ ScQRPions (Phoenix)

"It was the monkeys! The monkeys did it!"

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 21:28:09 EDT
From: w8irq@juno.com
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Message-ID: <19970821.212311.9110.1.W8IRQ@juno.com>

hi: can anyone give me a qaulified opinion on the merits
of a st. louis tuner. i have a norcal sierra and would
like a matching norcal st louis tuner if it is a worthwhile
addition. would appreciate your comments. tnx
nick, w8irq

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 18:29:15 -0800
From: wpc@west.net (John Roblin)
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25315] Altoids Style Coca Cola Big Tin
Message-ID: <v01530506b022a7f7d860@[205.254.241.121]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Hi Everyone!

I noticed at my local supermarket that they are selling large Coca Cola Tin
boxes that are very similar in design to the Altoids box. The size I
estimate is about 6X3X2 inches. Nice quality, nice price (\$2.95), plus
that Polar Bear looks really cool!!!

72, John Roblin
Ventura, CA

wpc@west.net
<http://www.west.net/~wpc>

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 18:56:11 -0700
From: Norm Melick <henmel@worldnet.att.net>
To: QRP-L <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25316] 38S Low Power

Message-ID: <33FCF1BB.F02@worldnet.att.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

My 38S used to put out 6 to 7 watts. For some reason, it puts out 3 watts now. I changed the IRF510, and no help. I haven't used it much, maybe 5 hours max, and the voltages appear normal.

Any ideas would really be appreciated.

Thanks in advance for the help.

Norm

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 22:15:11 -0400 (EDT)
From: Joseph Everhart <n2cx@voicenet.com>
To: ebjr@worldnet.att.net
Cc: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25317] Re: "Altoids" box rigs??
Message-ID: <199708220215.WAA10971@mail3.voicenet.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Sandy, you wrote:

> Hello gang,
>
> Can someone tell me where to get the design for the 1-2 watt rig
> built into the Altoids box? (No more of those nice Sucrets metal boxes
> anymore!) Also, I understand there is a tuner that can be incorporated
> into another "Altoids" box?
> Info on the rigs?/FAQ/boards?/etc.

I can't speak about the rig in the tin, but I *do* know something about the tuner...

I published the Rainbow Tuner in the Dec '96 QRPP and Jan '97 QRP Quarterly. There is plenty of info on it on the NJQRP web page at www.njqrp.org. And NJQRP sells a kit for the pc board and all board mounted parts.

If you need more info and don't have web access, drop me a line and I'll fill you in. There *is* an automated infobot that will send you text files about the Rainbow Tuner if you have only e-mail access.

72/73,

Joe E., N2CX

>From South Jersey, y'all!

home: n2cx@voicenet.com

work: jeverhar@camden.lmco.com

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 22:40:32 -0400 (EDT)
From: AlK0FRP@aol.com
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25318] CQC Contest K0FRP
Message-ID: <970821223915_-736020496@emout12.mail.aol.com>

Gang

I'm Back AOL only took 3 weeks to fix my Full mail box. I was unable to delete my mail.

Will use my own call this CQC contest.

I will run 1 Watt and see how the lower power goes. No power mult but should be fun anyway.

See you all. For rules see Dick AB0CD's post earlier to day.

Listen on 15 and 10m also , who knows it may open.

Al K0FRP

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 1997 23:45:03 +0100
From: "Frank, G3YCC." <g3ycc@gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>
To: gqrp-1@blacksheep.org, qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25319] Web Site additions
Message-ID: <RnvZqDAvTM\$zEwtN@gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>
MIME-Version: 1.0

I won't be announcing new additions any more (some folk will be pleased to hear...). Instead, I have added info on my first page to show the latest uploads, so check in from time to time and take a look. Also am

working on a newer and hopefully easier-to-use index page format. I hope you will let me know what you think.

Enjoy, oh and as they say: 'Have a nice day!'

Frank, G3YCC GQRP Club 042

Packet: G3YCC@GB7HUL

QRP Web Page: <http://www.gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 08:02:31 -0400

From: Derek Brown <DBrown@RFMD.COM>

To: "'QRP-L'" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>

Subject: [25320] QRZ Electronics

Message-ID:

<c=US%a=_%p=RF_Micro_Devices%l=PACHACUTEC-970822120231Z-1770@proxy1.rfmd.com>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Can anyone post the phone number & address for QRZ Electronics? A friend told me that they service the discontinued KDK line of radios. He didn't know where they are located (I'd have called directory assistance if I knew that).

73 de Derek, WF4I

Greensboro, NC

dbrown@rfmd.com

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 08:51:59 -0400 (EDT)

From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

To: towertalk@contesting.com, tenten-l@Lehigh.EDU, QRP-L List <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>

Subject: [25321] Link-coupled ATUs

Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.970822083624.12797A-1000000@utkux4.cas.utk.edu>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

I have added to my website a short note on link-coupled (inductively coupled) antenna tuners for balanced lines. The note in very scant fashion looks at the basic circuitry and notes the advantages and disadvantages of such tuners, and also notes the lengths to which have been going in trying to make single-ended or unbalanced tuners do balanced feedline work.

The note is not an addition to what is known. You can get as much or more

by reading the short treatment of such tuners in recent ARRL Antenna Books--and you can glean much more from reading much older books.

Rather the note is the basis for a question I have been kicking around with a manufacturer: is there a market for such tuners, which are slow and require plug in coil sets for max efficiency, but which handle parallel lines more efficiently and reliably than any single ended tuner? In short, would you seriously consider buying one if they were available on the US market? At what power level? 100-200 watt? 1500 watt?

As a step in market research, I shall accept postcards or e-mail if you are interested. Please just say Yes to a link tuner and then say Yes or no to the 100-200 watt and to the 1500 watt levels. If not interested, please do not send me mail or e-mail. But if you are--whether or not you can go to the website to read the page--please let me know. I shall compile results and let folks know how much interest may exist.

Yes, I know this is a limited sample, but it may be indicative of a much broader market--or the absence of a market. No, I shall have no vested interest in the outcome and glean no profit, royalty, or gift if such a tuner design appears on the US scene.

Incidentally, I am aware of only one commercially made unit--it is available in Germany and the small company likely does not export. However, if you have info on any other such units (not Z-matches, about which I have ample data), I'd like to hear about them.

Thanks for letting me use the bandwidth.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL	/\	/\	*	/	/	/	(Off)(423) 974-7215
1434 High Mesa Drive	/	\	\	\	----	/\---	(Hm) (423) 938-6335
Knoxville, Tennessee	/\	\	\	\	/	/ /	(FAX)(423) 974-3509
37938-4443 USA	/	\	\	\			cebik@utk.edu
URL: http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~cebik/radio.html							

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 09:19:54 -0400 (EDT)
From: K5BDZ@aol.com

To: cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu, qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25322] Re: Link-coupled ATUs
Message-ID: <970822091953_1119500824@emout13.mail.aol.com>

LB

Could you please forward to me the name of the German company that makes the ATU of which you speak? Also any others in Europe. I travel there regularly and would like to pick up one or two of these.

Your survey - YES I like and use link coupled tuners

(marketability? No...Bandswitch and FAST is the push button for DOLLARS

Thanks
Bill, K5BDZ
k5bdz@aol.com

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 07:49:28 -0600
From: wa5whn@juno.com
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25323] HW-8, in need of main tuning capacitor
Message-ID: <19970822.074931.3398.0.wa5whn@juno.com>

qrp-lers,

I have just come across a sick HW-8 for next to nothing (I have 2 working HW-8's). My usual parts source for the main tuning capacitor no longer has one in inventory. This is capacitor #26-152 (C302 A/B) (6.2pf - 17.2pf). Anyone know of any Heathkit HW-8 original parts vendors, before I modify this unit ? Yes, I have already contacted Benton Harbor. Zero inventory.

I will be at the Albuquerque, NM Hamfest (Aug. 23 - 24 @ the NM National Guard Armory, 600 Wyoming Blvd. NE, 4 blocks south of the intersection of I-40 & Wyoming Blvd., east side of Wyoming Blvd., north of Copper Ave.), looking for parts. (Monitoring the 147.15 MHz repeater, +600 KHz offset, no pl). I had heard that W5BI was buying breakfast, so a group of us are showing up to see if that is true. ;-)

Tnx & 72, Bubba Jay, WA5WHN DM65qd

PS T minus 9 days until the Az. scQRPion's Bubba Sprint & Bathing suite contest :-)

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:01:43 -0700
From: Jim <kw3u@warwick.net>
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25324] MFJ-9040
Message-ID: <33FDC5F7.7106@warwick.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

For Sale:

MFJ-9040 40 mtr qrp in mint condition.
Has no options in it.
With manual, box, and assorted E-mails I collected
concerning agc operation.
freq coverage is 7.000 - 7.150 cw.
Will ship for \$105.

RYAN xmtr board for 40 mtrs, installed in small box
with so-239; pwr cord, and two xtal sockets. Paperwork/
schematic included. ship for \$30.

Thanks JIM KW3U

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:16:54 -0400 (EDT)
From: Bob Schreibmaier <k3ph@dxis.monroe.pa.us>
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25325] Source for Kent Paddles?
Message-ID: <199708221416.KAA00172@dxis.monroe.pa.us>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I recently got the chance to use a Kent iambic paddle and
liked it very much. However, the owner only remembers that
he purchased it "at Dayton." Any ideas where one can buy
these?

Thanks in advance.

72,
Bob

--

+-----+
| Bob Schreibmaier K3PH | E-mail: k3ph@dxis.monroe.pa.us |
| Kresgeville, PA 18333 | ICBM: 40o55'N 75o30'W |
+-----+

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:27:05 -0400
From: Paul Cereste <cereste@myapc.com>
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25326] folded dipole shorting bars
Message-ID: <s3fd6993.059@myapc.com>

First of all, thank you to the several QRP-Lers that helped me with my 38 spl spurious oscillating amp mod. It IS influenced by load reactance and critical tuning. It seems to work now, but I need to get a resonant 50 ohm antenna up to really test it out.

I have been casting about for a design that will fit my situation. I came across a design in a ARRL Handbook (I think it was 1990, but I'm not sure) for a folded dipole made of 300 ohm twin lead with a feed line made of the same. It has a 107pf cap. across the feed at a critical distance from the transmitter to provide for a 50 ohm match. The antenna portion is a half wave long (aprox 48 feet).

The piece of the design that I don't understand (and is not explained in the text) is the addition of "shorting straps" that are placed on the antenna at 0.86 of the total length (0.43 from the center feed point).

Why not just make the antenna .86 of half wave? Why leave these little stubs on each end?

Has anyone on the list tried this design? It looks like it would be quite good for

portable ops - no tuner required.

73, Paul K1CGZ

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:36:21 -0400
From: "Watson R Gabriel Jr" <wgabriel@duke-energy.com>
To: k3ph@dxis.monroe.pa.us
Cc: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25327] Re: Source for Kent Paddles?
Message-ID: <852564FB.004FF6FF.00@dpcmail.dukepower.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

Try: R. A. Kent (Engineers)
P.O. Box 809
Mount Ida, AR 71957-0809

Tel: 870-867-4550
FAX: 870-867-2019

Call/write for details on keys, both straight and paddle type. They
advertise regularly in QST; in fact, this is where I got info above.

Tnx. Watson/WB4EXW

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:41:24 -0400
From: Paul Cereste <cereste@myapc.com>
To: k3ph@dxis.monroe.pa.us, qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25328] Source for Kent Paddles? -Reply
Message-ID: <s3fd6cdf.062@myapc.com>

>From an ad in QST:

R.A. Kent (Engineers)
PO Box 809
Mount Ida, AR 71957-0809

tel 870 867-4550

fax 870-867-2019

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:47:46 -0400
From: "Bob Kellogg" <ae4ic@nr.infi.net>
To: "qrpforum" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25329] Help -Toroids with shorted turns
Message-ID: <199708221448.KAA01250@mh004.infi.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Alright, Guys, inquiring minds need to know the *facts*.

If you have a toroid inductor, and if you short several of the turns on that inductor, does it make the inductor more lossy?

A statement to that affect appeared on this forum a few days ago. Since then, I've been involved in a lot of email discussion concerning the St. Louis tuner, which is apparantly more lossy than common sense says it should be. (It's a common design, well built with top quality componants, etc.) One of the circuit features, however is that the toroid inductor has shorted turns.

One of my corresponents modified his SLT, clipping the ground lead on the bottom end of the inductor, thus eliminating the short. Indications are that losses increased substantially instead of decreasing as expected.

This is beyond my knowledge of RF circuitry. *Help* -- **facts** ---
Someone please ---
Does anyone know of studies that prove or disprove this question? Does it just lower the Q? Is that good in a tuner design?

CUL,
Bob Kellogg, AE4IC, Greensboro, NC
Prolably, but not nececelery. -- Benny Hill

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 09:56:55 -0700
From: Jack Dougherty /RE&C Houston <jdougher@wt.net>
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25330] Re: FYBO Certificates
Message-ID: <33FDC4D7.9B8@wt.net>

MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I got mine (and sent back a buck to help the cause). The certificate is real nice, and I found a place of honor right under the Gibson Les Paul commemorative issue ax and H&B Power Built driver on my wall. The igloo logo is a classy piece of work you gotta see.....

Look forward to next year's fybo. Thanks Joe & SQRPs bunch .

WA8GHZ /5 Jack (bubba jr.) / Houston / 48 degreesF entry

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:55:17 -0500 (EST)
From: "James C. Owen, III" <owen@piper.eeel.nist.gov>
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25331] RE: folded dipole shorting bars
Message-ID: <39318.owen@piper.eeel.nist.gov>

In message Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:27:05 -0400,
Paul Cereste <cereste@myapc.com> writes:

> The piece of the design that I don't
> understand (and is not explained in the
> text) is the addition of "shorting straps"
> that are placed on the antenna at 0.86 of
> the total length (0.43 from the center feed
> point).

>
> Why not just make the antenna .86 of half
> wave? Why leave these little stubs on
> each end?
>

Get a copy of the ARRL Antenna Handbook Paul. It's explained there. If you use 300 ohm open air line then it's shorted at the ends. If you use 300 ohm twin lead, due to the solid-dielectric, the velocity factor is less and to keep from introducing reactance at the feed point then the shorting point must be moved toward the center. The antenna is the same length (or nearly so) and the length past the shorting bar will be OPEN at the ends. You WILL NOT have another short at the very ends. In effect the total length tunes for resonance and the shorting bar tunes for 0 reactance at resonance. The formula for the position of the bars is $K \times 468/F$ where K is the Velocity factor of the line. The formula for resonance remains $468/F$. 72/73 Jim K4CGY

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 11:26:54 -0400
From: "Dave Redfearn" <n4elm@ipass.net>
To: <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25332] FS: QRP++ and stuff
Message-ID: <199708221525.LAA20375@passport.ipass.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Pre-Shelby Hamfest Sale

Equipment can be delivered to the 1997 Shelby, NC Hamfest (30-31 Aug 97)

1. Complete Portable Qrp HF Station consisting of:

Index Labs QRP++ HF transceiver
160 - 10 meters CW, SSB 0 - 5 watts transmit
General Coverage receive CW, SSB (No AM mode)
with DC cable and manual.
Mods: Index Labs RF gain control mod and antenna input diodes added.

Index Labs Companion Tuner (for QRP+)
tuner, noise bridge, and battery in one box
with charger and manual.
Mods: Added circuit breaker on back, Added LED for voltage level on front.

DOSKIL All Weather case 19X14X8
Heavy Black Plastic case with foam cutouts for QRP++ and accessories.
Suitable for Airline or General shipping.

Nye Viking Iambic Paddle
M/SSK-1
wired for QRP++

All is in good to excellent condition, slight wear or scratches on the cases.
Everything works. Radio and tuner purchased NEW in Dec 1996; case 1997.
Station will be sold together ONLY - Will not separate.
All for \$800.00 OBO + shipping in USA

2. NORCAL 49er kit, built and working. No mods
with R/S box - \$40.00 + shipping
3. Unbuilt NORCAL 38 Special kit - \$28.00 + shipping

4. Unbuilt Pixie II kit for 40 Meters - \$10.00 + shipping
5. HP 95LX Palmtop PC
IBM PC XT compatible, built-in productivity software
Can be used as a terminal for a TNC or multi-mode controller
Has 1 PCMCIA type II slot
Runs on 2 AA batteries
with: 512K SRAM card, HP serial port connectivity kit,
2400 baud external modem, and manuals
\$200.00 OBO

Would prefer not to ship but can work something out.
Equipment can be delivered to the 1997 Shelby Hamfest

73 - Dave, N4ELM.

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 09:19:30 -0700
From: Ed Loranger <we6w@qsl.net>
To: wa5whn@juno.com
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25333] Re: HW-8, in need of main tuning capacitor
Message-ID: <33FDBC12.3B64@qsl.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi Bubba Jay, this is Bubba Ed!

My HW-8 keeps resetting back to 7035 on the dial, even though I tune it up to read 7040 and set the tuning slug in the master oscillator coil with nail polish.

Yesterday I got home and had to tune all the way down to 7020 to zero in on 7040.

I don't know if my son is 'Slamming' the rails with the main tuning Cap, C302 A/B.

You now have a third HW-8 -- Great! Sounds like you've got experience so I'll ask: "What have you done to solve frequency calibration of the HW-8 and keeps it from drifting?"

Any help appreciated.

Anyone else know?

-Ed Loranger

--

72/73 de we6w qrp es cw ONLY (From non-ham to extra in one day!)

HW-8;OHR-100, Pixie2, Johnson Viking II w/VFO.

QRP-L#1068/Norcal#2227/ARS#275/ARCI#9397 grid CM88ok

mailto:we6w@qsl.net <http://www.qsl.net/we6w>

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 11:35:36

From: Steven Weber <kd1jv@moose.ncia.net>

To: Bigbob97@aol.com

Cc: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU

Subject: [25334] Re: Curry comm.

Message-ID: <3.0.1.16.19970822113536.1e6781b6@mailhost.ncia.net>

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

>I for one would like to know - is Curry Comm. a real business or a sham? (or
>maybe just a slow business without a phone) - can't discount all this free
>publicity! If they turn out to be Ok - I for one will remember their name!
>Bob WB2DHK

Hi Bob and Gang,

Since Bob asked, might as well tell everyone.

Dave Curry, aka, Curry Comm is for real. He has a good line of 1750 Meter kits and is well known and respected in the Lowfer community.

Its a one man show. He designs, developes and makes the kits himself. He also has a full time job. Like many of us, he is more engineer than buisness man. If your interested in 1750 meters, his kits are well worth checking out.

<http://www.fix.net/~jparker/currycom.htm>

Enough said, we return you to your normally scheduled broadcast...

73,

Steve, KD1JV....In the White Mountains of New Hampshire

"Melt Solder"

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 10:25:33 -0600
From: AE0Q V31RY <v31ry@ix.netcom.com>
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25335] CQC QSO Party
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19970822162533.0b1f2be8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I'm going to be in Wyoming for the CQC QSO Party on Sunday. Will have a Carolina Windom up between some trees on a hill east of Laramie, running 5w. If anyone needs WY for QRP WAS, I'll be on 20, 30, and 40 meters Saturday evening and Sunday before and after the contest, near the usual QRP freqs.

We have a WX front moving into the area for the weekend, but I'll be operating from a camper so it's an all-weather operation, hopefully not much QRN..

73 -- Glenn

"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
v31ry@ix.netcom.com --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
<http://www.qsl.net/ae0q>

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 16:32:26 -0400
From: "Rich Dailey, KA8OKH" <ka8okh@som-uky.campus.mci.net>
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25336] Big Altoids tins
Message-ID: <3.0.16.19970822163220.26cf4ee2@som-uky.campus.mci.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I think they may come from the cracker barrel giftshop.

72 es zut de rich

Rich Dailey, KA8OKH <ka8okh@som-uky.campus.mci.net>
The KA8OKH Web - <http://www.qsl.net/ka8okh>

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 14:19:05 -0400
From: Zack Lau <zlau@arrl.org>
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25337] Re: HW-8, in need of main tuning capacitor
Message-ID: <33FDD819.354D@arrl.org>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Wouldn't it be possible to machine an adapter plate?

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 14:39:16 -0400 (EDT)
From: Jerrydeen@aol.com
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25338] Ham Keyer and Trac Keyer
Message-ID: <970822143901_2081988369@emout02.mail.aol.com>

I have a friend who has a Ham Keyer Model HK5A that he cannot get working.
Does anyone have a schematic for this keyer, or a manual? I will be happy
to pay copy and mailing costs. He has a Vibroplex iambic paddle that I
wonder if it is connected properly. Is the middle plug for a ground?

I Have a Trac Cmos Electronic Keyer Model TE 144 and would like a manual or
copy and also will pay copy and mailing costs for this as well. Please reply
by e-mail if you can help.

All info is appreciated.

72 Jerry WB0T

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 14:53:44 -0400 (EDT)
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
To: towertalk@contesting.com, tenten-l@Lehigh.EDU, QRP-L List <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25339] Initial link tuner response. . .
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.970822144600.19262E-100000@utkux4.cas.utk.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

has been overwhelming! This is to thanks all those who have sent responses, with an assurance that those who also posed questions or comments needing repsonse will be handled over the weekend. Further response of interest, of course, will be welcome. Kits, parts, and price are the additional themes coming through. I must be going to the wrong hamfests, because I have not seen a nice clean Matchbox at a reasonable price in years, although some folks seem to see them regularly.

I'll keep receiving responses for at least 30 days before providing some results.

My thanks to all who have replied and who may reply down the line.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL	/\	/\	*	/	/	/	(Off) (423) 974-7215
1434 High Mesa Drive	/	\	\		----	/\---	(Hm) (423) 938-6335
Knoxville, Tennessee	/\	\	\	/	/		(FAX) (423) 974-3509
37938-4443 USA	/	\	\	\			cebik@utk.edu
URL: http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~cebik/radio.html							

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 14:55:14 -0400
From: wb8ygg@juno.com (Bradley S. Mitchell)
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25340] Wanted EK-38, or EK-39 keyer
Message-ID: <19970822.145515.12710.1.WB8YGG@juno.com>

I am looking for an ek-38 or ek-39 keyer to buy.

For that matter an ek-402, 420 or 430 would be great too!

73 Brad WB8YGG

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 14:54:31 -0400 (EDT)
From: Jerrydeen@aol.com
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU

Subject: [25341] Ten-Tec 525

Message-ID: <970822145241_417278237@emout20.mail.aol.com>

I have for sale a Ten Tec 525 Argosy analog model. It has Noise blanker, Calibrator, Audio filter. A relay has been installed so that power can be shut off with the rig switch, in place of the switch in line. Cosmetically, the rig is in very good condition. Several small scratches on top, and paint worn on fins. I am asking \$325.00 for the rig. Please reply via e-mail if interested.

72, Jerry WB0T

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 12:22:51 -0700 (PDT)

From: ken crips <kk7cm@rocketmail.com>

To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU

Subject: [25342] R. A. Kent keys

Message-ID: <19970822192251.1248.rocketmail@send1.rocketmail.com>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

I have used R.A. Kent keys for years, their quality is second to none. they compare very well with the Jone's Key, and are much cheaper. The Arkansas couple that handle these keys are a delight to deal with. There are three keys available. The first is one of the best "pump" Keys (this is what the English call straight keys} a single paddle key and the iambic key. these keys are all available in kit form and I would suggest getting them this way, it took me longer to find my tools then it took to assemble the iambic key. It great fun reading the English news paper these key come wrapped up in.

72' kk7cm

Ken

===

This dispatch is from HQ of the 23rd street unit of the Cheyenne Irish Terrier Army, it's roster is 1st lt. Ernie and Command Sergeant Major Razz. Their mission is bed hogging, chair stealing, food sniching, and other infamous deeds as they think of them.

Sent by RocketMail. Get your free e-mail at <http://www.rocketmail.com>

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 12:04:06 -0400
From: Ed Pacyna <pacyna@auratek.com>
To: ae4ic@nr.infi.net
Cc: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25343] Re: Help -Toroids with shorted turns
Message-ID: <3.0.16.19970822120405.2d5fbca4@dingle.auratek.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

At 10:47 AM 8/22/97 -0400, Bob Kellogg wrote:

>Alright, Guys, inquiring minds need to know the *facts*.

>

>If you have a toroid inductor, and if you short several of the turns on
>that inductor, does it make the inductor more lossy?

>A statement to that affect appeared on this forum a few days ago.

I saw that post as well and silently disagreed. I see no reason that the Q
would materially change.

>One of my correspondents modified his SLT, clipping the ground lead on the
>bottom end of the inductor, thus eliminating the short. Indications are
>that losses increased substantially instead of decreasing as expected.

I am not familiar with the SLT configuration. However if it is a C-L-C T
network (very commonly used) the bottom end of the inductor and the
shorting point should be connected to ground. The reason is that otherwise
you would have an auto-transformer and the free end would be left at a very
high impedance and voltage condition (i.e. transformer action).

73

Ed, W1AAZ

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 15:11:50 -0500 (CDT)
From: Bill Howell <bhowell@mail.utexas.edu>
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25344] Help ID small capacitor
Message-ID: <199708222011.PAA03922@mail.utexas.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I'm trying to determine the value of a cap... It's a bit smaller than a 1/8th watt resistor. The color bands are as follows: brown-black-brown-silver (space) silver. I'm pretty sure it's a cap and not a resistor, as it's labeled "C1" on the PCB.

I know there was a humongous thread that addressed cap color codes a while back. Should've saved it.

Please email me direct if you have a chart / answer.

Tnx,

Bill Howell
University of Texas at Austin
Performing Arts Center
Electronic Maintenance
N5ALO QRP-L #415

belief preceeds experience

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 16:53:54 -0400 (EDT)
From: Chris Cartwright <ccart@dns.vidtel.com>
To: QRP Reflector <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25345] "Potential" Super SST
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.93.970822163226.1424I-100000@dns.vidtel.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Gang,

I now have an SST for every band (except/N), no I don't want to part with any:) However, I got a 20M unit from Rich, K7SZ and it tunes ~14.002-052

or 14.036-065 depending on the varactor. This seems *abnormally* wide and I'd like to find out why, and pass it on to other SST owners. (and expand coverage on my other two) And yes it's very non-linear, the "bottom" of the dial is *very* crowded.

I have a fair compliment of test equipment but need some pointers on how to check the VFO components in/out of circuit. I can just pull them out and check them with the LC/II, ohm meter, etc, but I don't think that will give enough info. Perhaps I have a "super crystal" in there, but I don't have a clue how/what to check it with, or what I'm looking for. I have a 20 Mhz scope, variable PS, MFJ 259, and decent VOM. So if anyone has any tips on how to test these parts...

I can switch the varactors to the other units and see if that's the "magic" part, and I'll try to get some additional crystals, chokes, and varactors from Wilderness, DigiKey and Mouser to compare. And to some of the MD locals, Mike (I know you have better test equipment), Walt, Scott, if you want a crack at this before I mess it up let me know.

Let's do this with email and I'll get a summary to the list when the "magic" gets turned into science:) 72

```
-- Chris Cartwright,   Technical Engineer   |       ccart@vidtel.com       --
-- N3XRV               QRP WAS 17/9 (w/c)   |       ccart@erols.com       --
-- QRP-L #655 NORCAL   #1891 QRP-ARCI #???? | http://dns.vidtel.com/~ccart --
-- WIMPS Q's=04 30M=04 17M=00 12M=00 STATES=03/00/00 DX=00/00/00 QSL's=00 --
```

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 15:17:18 -0700 (PDT)
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
To: Chris Cartwright <ccart@dns.vidtel.com>
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [25346] Re: "Potential" Super SST
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.970822151226.3330A-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Chris,
Why not find out what K7SZ did to it? BTW, my 20m SST xtal says:

ECS H
18.00-20
CHINA K5

It gives a range of 14.054-14.063 with the MV209 Varactor and 5.6uH for RFC3.

72, Dave, W6EMD

Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 18:21:20 -0400 (EDT)
From: DYARNES@aol.com
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [25347] Inflated Accessory Prices?
Message-ID: <970822182019_-933471407@emout18.mail.aol.com>

Hi Gang,

This perhaps has only a loose QRP connection, but I need some advice and there are some pretty astute people here whom I respect. Hopefully I'll get some sage advice.

I'm not that much interested in VHF, but I did recently buy a new Standard C510A dual band HT. This is a very nifty HT in a very small package, and QRPp power output (see, there is a QRP thread here).

Anyway, this unit will supposedly run 2 watts+ using an accessory mobile power adapter (model CMA510A). It runs about 500mw/1 watt (lo-hi) using 3 AA batteries.

This adapter plugs into your cigarette lighter socket.

Now what would you guess this accessory should cost? Actually, I was originally told by HRO that it was around \$30, but they didn't have any in stock right now. I thought that was a little high for a 12V adapter, but today I decided I would go ahead and order one. Guess what? The price is not \$30, but about \$100!

As it turns out, this "mobile adapter" is a bit more than just a power adapter (but not very much more in my view). Apparently it uses a connector to the radio like that used by cell phones. From that, you also get an external antenna output connection (SO-239) and an external speaker connection. That's it!

In the words of the guy I called at Standard, "there's some electronics in this adaptor", but I can't imagine that it is much. The radio works on 3 AA cells (4.5 volts) to produce 1 watt. I assume 12 volts, or perhaps a somewhat lesser voltage (requiring some minimal components to effect a small voltage drop) enables the radio to generate 2+ watts. There certainly is no amplifier involved here as confirmed by the Standard rep.

Does anybody besides me think this accessory is grossly overpriced? Maybe I'm just being too "Scotch", but it sure seems like armed robbery to me!

Personally, I would speculate that somebody is trying to take advantage of a bunch of no-code techs (I do not mean this to be a derogatory reference to no-code techs) and other less experienced hams who don't have a clue what's in the "little black box". Maybe I don't fully appreciate it either, but I gotta think it's only a few bucks worth of parts and very little time or effort. Hell, the radio only cost me \$290! They want \$100 for the plug!

Your thoughts please (I am prepared to be lambasted as a penny-pinching tight wad who doesn't want to pay a fair price!). Thanks.

72 de David W7AQK

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